

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ari Akmal and Kevin Gust on February 3, 2009 and February 5, 2009.

2. **In claims:**

Please replace claims 1, 14 and 16 with the following amended claims 1, 14 and 16:

1. (Currently amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium for discovering relationships in an arbitrarily complex environment, the computer program product comprising a computer program, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable by a processor to:

represent a first entity in a system being modeled with a first component of a first type of component in a data model, wherein the first component has a set of fields which contain information relating to the first entity, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the first type of component, and wherein the first entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

represent a second entity in the system being modeled with a second component of a second type of component in the data model, wherein the second component has a set of fields which contain information relating to the second entity, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the second type of component, and wherein the second entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

establish, maintain, delete and update one or more relationship discovery rules for analyzing one or more of information contained in one or more fields in the first component and information contained in one or more fields in the second component, one or more of data values associated with the first component and data values associated with the second component, and one or more references to a relationship discovery rule;

select a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules based on the type of component associated with the first component;

associate the selected relationship discovery rule with the first component;

apply the selected relationship discovery rule to the second component;

establish a relationship between the first component and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system, and wherein each relationship contains a set of fields which contain information pertinent to the association, wherein one field of the set of fields contains information about type of relationship; and

repeat one or more of selecting a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules, associating the selected relationship discovery rule with a first component, applying the selected relationship discovery rule with the second component to establish, delete or update a relationship when changes are made to the data model.

14. (Currently amended) A method for discovering relationships in an arbitrarily complex environment, comprising:

representing, by using a computer having a processor, a first entity in a system being modeled with a first component of a first type of component in a data model, wherein the first component has a set of fields, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the first type of component, wherein the set of fields

are defined based on data model format and the system modeled and contains information relating to the first entity, and wherein the first entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

representing a second entity in the system being modeled with a second component of a second type of component, wherein the second component has a set of fields, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the second type of component, wherein the set of fields are defined based on the data model format and the system being modeled and contains information relating to the second entity, and wherein the second entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

establishing, maintaining, deleting and updating one or more relationship discovery rules for analyzing one or more of information contained in one or more fields in the first component and information contained in one or more fields in the second component, one or more of data values associated with the first component and data values associated with the second component, and one or more references to a relationship discovery rule;

selecting a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules based on the type of component associated with the first component;

associating the selected relationship discovery rule with the first component;

applying the selected relationship discovery rule to the second component;

establishing a relationship between the first component and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship

represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system, and wherein each relationship contains a set of fields which contain information pertinent to the association, wherein one field of the set of fields contains information about type of relationship; and

repeating one or more of selecting a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules, associating the selected relationship discovery rule with a first component, applying the selected relationship discovery rule with the second component to establish, delete or update a relationship when changes are made to the data model.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises a set of criteria.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-25 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record teaches the claimed invention substantially as discussed in the prosecution history of this application, but it fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination:

establish, maintain, delete and update one or more relationship discovery rules for analyzing one or more of information contained in one or more fields in the first component and information contained in one or more fields in the second component, one or more of data values associated with the first component and data values associated with the second component, and one or more references to a relationship discovery rule;

select a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules based on the type of component associated with the first component;

associate the selected relationship discovery rule with the first component;

apply the selected relationship discovery rule to the second component;

establish a relationship between the first component and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system, and wherein each relationship contains a set of fields which contain information pertinent to the

association, wherein one field of the set of fields contains information about the type of relationship; and

repeat one or more of selecting a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules, associating the selected relationship discovery rule with a first component, applying the selected relationship discovery rule with the second component to establish, delete or update a relationship when changes are made to the data model as set forth in independent claims 1 (A computer program product) and 14 (A method).

The dependent claims 2-12 and 15-25 being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claims, are also allowable.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung K. Chau whose telephone number is 571-270-1754. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm Est, Alt Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Mahmoudi can be reached on 571-272-4078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Cam Y Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169

/Dung K Chau/
Examiner, Art Unit 2169
February 5, 2009